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M. FROIDEVAUX'S PARIS LETTER.

PARIS, November 20, 1902.

We are still without any precise indication as to the results of the researches made during the summer so far as these relate to geography; but we begin to receive reports from travellers returned from distant regions. M. G.-B. M. Flamand has made new geological researches in the forest region of the plateaux in southern Oran. M. Edmond Doulté, whose travels in Morocco have been already noted, has continued his observations, at first in the south, then in the direction of Marakesh, where he expected to make a centre for ethnographical study, with excursions to Amsmiz, Demnah, and Rehamna.

Lieutenant Mazeran is engaged in studying the Senegal River and its freshets. Dr. Maclaud has published the maps of his journeys in Fûta Jallon, with corrections of many errors. He has just been placed at the head of the French Commission, charged with the settlement of the boundary line between French and Portuguese Guinea.

M. Fourneau has set out for the Chad, in company with M. Bruel, who finished before his departure a map of the Upper Shari, on a scale of 1:100,000, with the help of all the documents brought together by our officers. It is to be hoped that this important map will soon be published.

Lieut. Collat, of the Duchesne-Fournet party, has returned from Ethiopia, and the Du Bourg de Bozas Mission is the way to the Omo river.

In Central Asia M. D. Levat has made a study of the hydrography of the Amu Daria. He has also visited the auriferous placers of Eastern Bukhara, and examined the geology and the mineral resources of the Darvaz and the Karateghin; and he crossed the Alai Mountains in company with M. André Petit by the still unknown pass of Karagush-Kana, 13,680 feet above the sea. This pass, by which the journey from Khokand to the Karateghin can be made in four days, is occupied by a glacier nine miles in length. Altogether, M. Levat has laid down a new route of nearly one hundred miles.

M. Lacroix, in his second visit to Martinique, established the fact that the Montagne Pelée is at present in a condition of feeble activ-

ity. He took advantage of the opportunity offered by this state of things to ascend the mountain on the northwest side to the crater, and to determine its shape. He found the lake Des Palmistes dry and filled with ashes, as it was in the month of June, and in the very middle of the crater there was a cone without a central orifice, but with sulphurous vapours rising from its walls. The conditions within the devastated region are: Since the eruption of the 30th of August the line of devastation on the north and east coasts, starting from Morne Rouge, follows very closely the course of the River Capot, extending on its right bank and with a slight inclination eastward to the bed of the river. Thence it turns to the southern part of the Ajoupa Bouillon at about 650 feet to the south of the church, leaving the greater part of the village untouched.

Beyond the Falaise river the zone of devastation is of irregular breadth, and extends from a mile and a quarter to about two miles from the shore.

The strip along the coast is unharmed, and retains its superb verdure, only the dwellings at the mouths of the rivers having suffered from the eruption; Basse-Pointe, for instance, is buried to the roofs of the houses.

All along the coast there are great accumulations of soil; it is now possible to walk from Macouba to the Grand' Rivière, at the base of the cliffs, against which but lately the breakers rolled.

It is to be noted that, notwithstanding the reports, no crater exists at the Ajoupa-Bouillon; neither have there been great cracks opened reaching to Basse-Pointe, nor subsidences on the northern and the southwestern coasts. M. Lacroix has been enabled to determine a great extension of the ruined district towards the north, the east, and the southeast, and that the geological results of the explosion on the 30th of August were of greater moment than those caused by the previous eruptions. At the same time the greatest intensity of this latest outbreak made itself felt in the southwestern zone, already completely ravaged by the preceding eruptions, and this is also the region which has most to dread for the future. Since the 23d of October three posts of observation have been established around the Montagne Pelée: one on the west, 19 miles from Fort-de-France; one on the east, a short distance to the westward of Grande Anse, and so placed as to control La Calebasse, the crater itself, and Basse-Pointe; and the third in the peninsula of La Caravelle, at the Moulin-de-Beauséjour. Telephonic and telegraphic communication between these stations and Fort-de-France reports the slightest movement of the volcano, which main-

tains its activity in spite of its apparent repose. Within a month the cone at the centre of the crater has increased in elevation more than 350 feet, and this without any serious eruption.

Among new publications may be mentioned two Reports of International Congresses, held in Paris in 1900—that of Anthropology and Prehistoric Archæology, and that of Americanists. Of the former, Dr. René Verneau, the secretary, has printed *in extenso* or in a careful analysis all the communications made; and particularly to be noted are the paper by the regretted Thomas Wilson on The Very Great Antiquity of Man in North America, and that of M. R. Lehmann-Nitsche on The Fossil Man of the Pampean Formation. It is to be regretted that Mr. George A. Dorsey did not furnish the text of his communication on The Stone Age in North America. There is hardly a region of the world which has not furnished the subject of some paper submitted to the Congress.

The *Compte-Rendu* of the Americanist Congress contains, besides the papers on Columbus by MM. Vignaud and de la Rosa, an excellent study on the ancient inhabitants of Lake Colhue Huapi, in Patagonia, and M. Ambrosetti's succinct account of the Calchaqui civilisation, so far as this is known.

A Latin thesis, by M. Jean Brunhes, offered for the doctor's degree to the Faculté des Lettres, of the University of Paris, treats thoroughly and with admirable illustrations the subject of *Giant-Kettles*,* noted in a previous letter.

M. Ch. Rabot has written a very useful and exact Chronological Essay on the Variations of Glaciers, complementary, in a sense, of his work on the Variations in Length of Glaciers in the Arctic Regions. M. Charles Duffart, in his study of the soundings obtained by Capt. Durand for M. Hauteux, between 44° and 45° N. Lat., and at 2° W. Long., has verified the existence of submarine valleys perpendicular to the coast and having an almost absolute conformity with the land valleys of the Landes plateaux. This is a new proof of the existence of open bays on the Gascon shore during the Quaternary. M. Duffart announces that he is about to draw a bathymetric chart, on a large scale, of this submarine region. This will form, for a small portion of the coast of France, a very useful complement of M. Thoulet's series of submarine lithological charts of the French coasts.

The subject of irrigation has been treated by M. Jean Brunhes in a thesis entitled *De l'Irrigation dans la Péninsule Ibérique et dans*

* The title of this paper is: De Vorticum opera, seu quo modo et quatenus aquæ currentes per vortices circumlatæ ad terram exedendam operam navent.

l'Afrique du Nord. The geographical conditions, the methods, and the organization of irrigation have been studied by M. Brunhes on the spot in three regions—in Spain, Algeria-Tunisia, and Egypt—as well as in the recorded literature of the subject. The countries chosen offer, in the opinion of M. Brunhes, a collection of irrigated districts, large and small, so numerous as to afford material for a study of comparative geography and to show that the distribution and regulation of the water supply are facts of geography as related to man. Excellent maps and illustrations add to the value of this important work, by the side of which may be placed a book by Capt. Cauvet on the culture of the Palm-tree in Southern Algeria.

Mention must be made of M. Bernard's Bibliography, published in the *Bulletin* of the Algerian Geographical Society, and of the notes addressed to the Academy of Sciences by M. G.-B. M. Flamand on Tidikelt, especially the one concerning the hydrography of that portion of the Touat chain of oases, or archipelago, as it is called. M. Breschin writes in *La Géographie* of the Tropical African Forest, and ethnologists will find precious material in the documents brought together by MM. Clozel and Villamur under the title of Indigenous Customs of the Ivory Coast. The *Revue Coloniale* publishes the useful reports of the Franco-Portuguese Commission on the region between the Congo and the Cabinda, and MM. Georges Bruel and Casimir Maistre treat the question of the Bahr Sara, principal branch of the Shari. One of M. Marchand's companions, Lieutenant Dyé, contributes to the *Annales de Géographie* a study on the Bahr-el-Ghazal, and the work by MM. Angoulvant and Vignéras, entitled *Djibouti, Mer Rouge, Abyssinie*, may be recommended.

The geographical literature of Madagascar has been enriched by some works of the very first order, such as M. E. F. Gautier's *Madagascar: an Essay in Physical Geography*. This is in two parts—one devoted to the physical geography and geology of the island, and especially of the eastern part; the other to the languages and to the origin of the tribes. The author's conclusion is that the population of Madagascar is in the main of Indo-Melanesian origin. The book is illustrated by numerous engravings and sketches, and by two fine maps—geological and hypsometrical—the basis of future cartography in these directions.

The southern portion of these maps undergoes already some modification through the published itinerary of the route followed in 1901 by M. G. Grandidier, and the Third Part of M. G. Ferrand's

Mussulmans in Madagascar and the Comoro Islands adds a number of details to the ethnography as described by M. Gautier.

In Asia we have only a brief note of Lieut. François' journey in Kwang-Si, and the most notable report from America is the résumé of Dr. Berté's long account of the eruptions of the Montagne Pelée; though we could have wished to read the entire document, and to find in *La Géographie* a number of the fine photographs which accompanied the original paper.

In the last number of the *Bulletin de Géographie Historique et Descriptive*, M. Gabriel Marcel has restored to the geographer Jean Jolivet a map of Picardy of the sixteenth century; M. Georges Musset has sketched the career of J. B. Le Moyne de Bienville, and Mr. Fr. Pelletier has recounted a part of the story of the Lavérendrye—the daring raid which, in 1742-43, took the Chevalier and Louis-Joseph as far as the Rocky Mountains.

The identification of Madagascar with the island of Menuthias, maintained by M. A. Grandidier, is denied by M. E. F. Gautier; and it is to be regretted that M. C. Guignebert, in his thesis on the geographical work of Pierre d'Ailly, has not studied the copy of the *De Imagine Mundi* annotated by Columbus.

Two admirable bibliographies are not to be overlooked—that of the work of Petrus Apianus, by M. F. Van Ortroij; and the Geographical Bibliography for the year 1901, published by the *Annales de Géographie*.

HENRI FROIDEVAUX.